GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:240
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2001
TELEPHONE AND POST OFFICES FACILITIES
LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for telephone and post office facilities is increasing in the rural areas in view of the technological advancement in these fields;

(b) if so, the present situation in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh in the above fields;

(c) whether no improvement has been made in these fields in the rural areas despite the present expansion in the communication sector; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STA QUESTION NO. 240 FOR 5TH DECEMBER, 2001 REGARDING TELEPHONE AND POST OFFICES FACILITIES.

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Demand for telephone connections in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have increased considerably. Presently there is a waiting list of 11861, 123826 and 93191 telephones in rural areas in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh respectively as on 31.10.2001.

Demand for opening new post offices in rural areas of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh is 51,24 and 247 respectively during the current year.

(c) & (d): Improvements have been made in providing telephone and post office facilities in rural areas. During 2000-2001, 18.45 lakh new Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) have been provided along with 3201 new exchanges in the rural areas, and during 2001-2002 it is planned to provide 16.82 lakh new DELs and 1800 new exchanges in rural areas out of which 6.15 lakh new DELs and 382 new exchanges have already been provided during current financial year till 31.10.2001 in the country. The total number of rural exchanges as on 31.10.2001 in MP, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh is 2056, 1766 and 2084 respectively. More and more Digital Electronic Exchanges are being inducted with suitable reliable media. Wireless in Local Loop(WLL) and C-DOT wireless multiple access systems are also being deployed in rural areas apart from conventional under ground (U/G) cables system.

There is an improvement in providing post office facility also. 5001 Post Offices are functioning in rural areas of Madhya Pradesh, 9607 in Rajasthan and 15651 in Uttar Pradesh as on 31.3.2001. Opening of new post offices is subject to the fulfillment of norms based on justification and availability of required resources including sanction of required posts by the Government.